

f³⁵ sub-groups in the General Epistles¹

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There are fourteen significant splits in the Family in the four larger books (there being none in the three shorter ones), as follows:

James 2:13 ελεον 432^{alt},1766^c || ελεος 328,394{432,604}634,664,928,986,1247,1249,1482,1548,1619^c,1636,1725,1732^{alt},
1749,1752,1766,1897,2080,2221,2289,2587,2704

James 2:14 εχει || εχη 141,328,386,394,604,634,664,801,928,986,1075,1247,1249,1250,1482,1508,1548,1656,1704,1737,
1746,1748,1749,1752,1766,1855,1876,1899,2218,2221,2289,2431,2501,2587,2626,2704

1 Peter 1:23 αλλ || αλλα {149,201}{432,604}757,824,1072,1075,1248,1250,1503,1548,1617,1618,1619,1628,1636,1637,
1656,1740,1745,1746,1748,1754,1763,1768,1864,1892,2352,2431,2777

1 Peter 2:11 απεχεσθαι 1072^{alt} || απεχεσθε {149,201}204,604^c,757^{alt},824,1072,1248,1503^c,1548,1617,1618,1619^{alt},
1628^{alt},1637^c,1745^{alt},1746,1748,1864^{alt},1899,2352,2431,2704,2777

1 Peter 2:24 απογειομενοι || απογεινωμενοι (328)394{432(604)}664,928,986,1247,1249,1482,1508,1548,1752,1763,
1766,1768,1855,2289,2587(2704)

1 Peter 3:6 εγενηθητε 1766^v || εγεννηθητε 604,664,801,1247,1250,1618,1637,1732,1748,1752,1763,1876,1899,2289,
2431,2587,2626,2704,2777

1 Peter 4:2 του 2261^c || --- {149,201}{432,604}757,824,1072,1075,1101,1248,1503,1508^c,1548,1617,1618,1619,1628,1636,
1637,1656,1737,1740,1745,1746,1748,1754,1761,1766,1768,1864,1892,1899,2218,2261,2352,
2431,2501,2777

1 Peter 4:11 ως 1748[?] || ης 141^c{149,201}{432,604}757,824,1072,1075,1248,1503,1508,1617,1618,1619,1628,1636,1637,
1656,1737,1740,1745,1746,1754,1864,1892,2218,2352,2431,2777

1 Peter 5:7 μελει 824^c,1726^c || μελλει 141{432,604}801,824,986,1247,1248,1249,1250,1508,1617,1726,1748,1752,1763,
1768,1876,1892,1899,2261,2352,2431,2501,2626

1 Peter 5:8 καταπιειν 394^c || καταπιη 328,394,604,664,928,986,1075,1247,1249,1482^v,1508,1737,1748,1749,1752,1761,
1763,1766,1855,1892^c,1899,2218,2221^c,2255^v,2289,2431,2587^c,2704

2 Peter 2:14 πλεονεξιας || πλεονεξιαν 394,664,801,928,1249,1250,1482,1508,1726,1749,1763,1855,1876,2261,2289,
2378,2587,2626,2704^v

2 Peter 3:3 γινωσκοντες || γινωσκοντας 328,394,664,928,1247,1249,1482,1508,1749,1752,1855,2255,2289,2587,2704

1 John 1:6 περιπατουμεν 18,35,141,204,386,801,824,1100,1101,1250,1636,1704,1725,1726,1732,1733,1754,1761,1858,
1865,1876,1897,2080,2221,2261[2378]2466,2554,2626,2723
περιπατωμεν {149,201}328,394{432,604}634(664)757,928,986,1072,1075,1247,1248,1249,1482,1503,1508,
1548,1617,1618,1619,1628,1637,1656,1737,1740,1745,1748,1749,1752,1763,1766,1768,1855,
1864,1892,2218,2255,2289,2352,2431,2501,2587,2704,2777

1 John 4:20 μισει || μιση 328,386,394,604,634,928,1247,1249,1482,1508,1548,1704,1749,1752,1763,1766,1855,2255,
2289,2587,2704

They divide into two significant sub-groups as follows:

¹ This paper is a sequel to "Adjudicating Family Splits", distributed in December, 2007 (mailing # 50). That study was based on 24 MSS, while this one uses 77, out of 84 known family members. The earlier selection of MSS was sufficiently representative so that this almost complete scrutiny of the Family reaches the same conclusions. For a list of the known family members, complete with location, date and content, please see "f³⁵ MSS in the General Epistles".

Group 1:

Js2:13	Js2:14	1P2:24	1P3:6	1P5:8	2P2:14	2P3:3	1J4:20	place	date
2289	2289	2289	2289	2289	2289	2289	2289	Vatopediu	XII
2704	2704	2704	2704	2704	2704	2704	2704	Meteora	XV
394	394	394	---	394	394	394	394	Vallicelliana	1330
664	664	664	664	664	664	664	---	Zittau	XV
928	928	928	---	928	928	928	928	Dionysiu	1304
1247	1247	1247	1247	1247	---	1247	1247	Sinai	XV
1249	1249	1249	---	1249	1249	1249	1249	Sinai	1324
1482	1482	1482	---	1482	1482	1482	1482	M Lavras	1304
1752	1752	1752	1752	1752	---	1752	1752	Panteleimonos	XII
2587	2587	2587	2587	---	2587	2587	2587	Vatican	XI
328	328	(328)	---	328	---	328	328	Leiden	XIII
604	604	604	604	604	---	---	604	Paris	XIV
---	1508	1508	---	1508	1508	1508	1508	M Lavras	XV
1749	1749	---	---	1749	1749	1749	1749	M Lavras	XVI
---	1855	1855	---	1855	1855	1855	1855	Ivion	XIII
---	---	1763	1763	1763	1763	---	1763	Athens	XV
1766	1766	1766	---	1766	---	---	1766	Sofia	1344

{I consider that these seventeen MSS represent a significant sub-group that is distributed throughout the four larger books. Observe that the geographical distribution is limited; Constantinople, Jerusalem, Patmos, Trikala and seven of the ten (that I checked) Mt. Athos monasteries are missing (of the twenty M Lavras MSS only three are here). The probability that this group could represent the archetype is negligible. I now add the 'stragglers', to complete the picture for each variant.}

986	986	986	---	986	---	---	---	Esphigmenu	XIV
1548	1548	1548	---	---	---	---	1548	Vatopediu	1359
634	634	---	---	---	---	---	634	Vatican	1394
---	801	---	801	---	801	---	---	Athens	XV
---	1250	---	1250	---	1250	---	---	Sinai	XV
---	1748	---	1748	1748	---	---	---	M Lavras	1662
---	1876	---	1876	---	1876	---	---	Sinai	XV
---	1899	---	1899	1899	---	---	---	Patmos	XIV
---	---	---	---	2255	---	2255	2255	Ivion	XVI
---	2431	---	2431	2431	---	---	---	Kavsokalyvia	1332
---	2626	---	2626	---	2626	---	---	Ochrida	XIV

{801, 1250, 1876 and 2626 may well have shared a common influence.}

---	386	---	---	---	---	---	386	Vatican	XIV
432	---	432	---	---	---	---	---	Vatican	XV
---	1075	---	---	1075	---	---	---	M Lavras	XIV
---	1704	---	---	---	---	---	1704	Kutlumusiu	1541
---	1737	---	---	1737	---	---	---	M Lavras	XII
---	2218	---	---	2218	---	---	---	Lesbos	XVI
2221	2221	---	---	---	---	---	---	Sparta	1432

{To these the following 'solitaries' should be added: for James 2:13 add 1636, 1725, 1897, 2080; for James 2:14 add 141, 1656, 1746, 2501; for 1 Peter 2:24 add 1768; for 1 Peter 3:6 add 1618, 1637,

1732, 2777; for 1 Peter 5:8 add 1761; for 2 Peter 2:14 add 1726, 2261, 2378; for 2 Peter 3:3 and 1 John 4:20 there are none.}

Comment: $\epsilon\chi\eta$ in James 2:14 is attested by 36 MSS, over 40% of the Family. Besides dittography being an easy possibility, the pressure of $\mu\eta$ may have caused some copyists to put the Subjunctive, perhaps without thinking—the reverse change would presumably be deliberate. In the context the Indicative is correct: James is stating a fact, the person doesn't have works.

Group 2:

1P1:23	1P2:11	[1P3:6]	1P4:2	1P4:11	1P5:7	place	date
824	824	---	824	824	824	Grottaferrata	XIV
1248	1248	---	1248	1248	1248	Sinai	XIV
1617	1617	---	1617	1617	1617	M Lavras	XV
2352	2352	---	2352	2352	2352	Meteora	XV
2431	2431	2431	2431	2431	2431	Kavsokalyvia	1332
149-201	149-201	---	149-201	149-201	---	Vatican/London	XV/1357
432-604	---	604	432-604	432-604	432-604	Vatican/Paris	XV/XIV
1072	1072	---	1072	1072	---	M Lavras	XIII
1618	1618	1618	1618	1618	---	M Lavras	XIV
1746	1746	---	1746	1746	---	M Lavras	XIV
1748	1748	1748	1748	---	1748	M Lavras	1662
1892	---	---	1892	1892	1892	Jerusalem	XIV
2777	2777	2777	2777	2777	---	Karditsa	XIV

{I consider that these thirteen MSS represent a significant sub-group, preceded by another twelve, below, that left the 'tree' at a node higher up.}

757	---	---	757	757	---	Athens	XIII
1075	---	---	1075	1075	---	M Lavras	XIV
1503	---	---	1503	1503	---	M Lavras	1317
1548	1548	---	1548	---	---	Vatopediu	1359
1619	---	---	1619	1619	---	M Lavras	XIV
1628	---	---	1628	1628	---	M Lavras	1400
1636	---	---	1636	1636	---	M Lavras	XV
1637	---	1637	1637	1637	---	M Lavras	1328
1656	---	---	1656	1656	---	M Lavras	XV
1740	---	---	1740	1740	---	M Lavras	XII
1745	---	---	1745	1745	---	M Lavras	XV
1754	---	---	1754	1754	---	Panteleimonos	XII
1768	---	---	1768	---	1768	Iviron	1519
1864	---	---	1864	1864	---	Stavronikita	XIII
---	1899	1899	1899	---	1899	Patmos	XIV

{I now add the 'stragglers', to complete the picture for each variant. The observant reader will have noticed that 1 Peter 3:6 is in [] above; I did this because this variant is already in group 1. This particular variant has a strange 'mixture' of both groups—because of the nature of the variant I suspect that the roster is fortuitous and therefore this variant does not really belong to either group.}

1250	---	1250	---	---	1250	Sinai	XV
---	---	---	---	1508	1508	M Lavras	XV
---	---	---	1737	1737	---	M Lavras	XII
1763	---	1763	---	---	1763	Athens	XV
---	---	---	2218	2218	---	Lesbos	XVI
---	---	---	2261	---	2261	Kalavryta	XIV
---	---	---	2501	---	2501	Sinai	XVI

{To these the following ‘solitaries’ should be added: for 1 Peter 2:11 add 204, 2704; for 1 Peter 4:2 add 1101, 1761, 1766; for 1 Peter 5:7 add 141, 801, 986, 1247, 1249, 1726, 1752, 1876, 2626 (this picture is probably due to the nature of the variant and does not reflect a dependency); for 1 Peter 1:23 and 4:11 there are none.}

Comment: the glaring feature of this second group is that it is limited to one book. Another ‘glare’ is the dominance of M Lavras—almost half of the total (but there are some M Lavras MSS that are in neither group). The probability that this second group could represent the archetype is also negligible.

As with $\epsilon\chi\eta$ in James 2:14, the omission of $\tau\omicron\upsilon$ in 1 Peter 4:2 is attested by 36 MSS, over 40% of the family. Since there is little doubt that the archetype read the article, how to account for the high attestation for the omission? I suppose it was pressure from the Byzantine bulk, almost 80% here. In the context one would expect the article, that I consider to be correct.

We now come to the only real ‘problem’ for determining the archetypal form of the family in the General Epistles—1 John 1:6 (at the outset I mentioned fourteen splits, of which I have only dealt with thirteen). This is the only place in the General Epistles where the archetypal form is preserved in a minority of the extant representatives, at least as I see it. The grand point at issue could be a case of dittography. The verb ‘say’ is properly Subjunctive, being controlled by $\epsilon\alpha\nu$, but the verbs ‘have’ and ‘walk’ are part of a statement and are properly Indicative—only if we are in fact walking in darkness do we become liars for claiming to be in fellowship. So $\pi\epsilon\rho\iota\pi\alpha\tau\omicron\upsilon\mu\epsilon\nu$ is correct. But to return to the MSS, we observe a curious circumstance: the roster that reads the Subjunctive is made up of precisely the two sub-groups, 2255 being the only outsider (a probable dittography); all the other MSS that do not participate in either sub-group read the Indicative, and they have a very good geographical distribution. Consider:

18	Constantinople	1364	35	Paris	XI
141	Vatican	XIII	204	Bologna	XIII
386	Vatican	XIV	801	Athens	XV
824	Grottaferrata	XIV	1100	Dionysiu	1376
1101	Dionysiu	1660	1250	Sinai	XV
1636	M Lavras	XV	1704	Kutlumusiu	1541
1725	Vatopediu	1367	1726	Vatopediu	XIV
1732	M Lavras	1384	1733	M Lavras	XIV
1754	Panteleimonos	XII	1761	Athens	XIV
1858	Konstamonitu	XIII	1865	Philotheu	XIII
1876	Sinai	XV	1897	Jerusalem	XII
2080	Patmos	XIV	2221	Sparta	1432
2261	Kalavryta	XIV	[2378]	Athens	1511 ²
2466	Patmos	1329	2554	Bukarest	1434
2626	Ochrida	XIV	2723	Trikala	XI

A chart will help to visualize the distribution for the two variants, using ‘Mt. Athos’ and ‘elsewhere’:

² 2378 is missing the first sheet of 1 John, and hence the verse in question, but since it eschews both sub-groups throughout, it almost certainly read the Indicative here.

1) Mt. Athos:	<u>Indicative</u> Konstamonitu Kutlumusiu Philotheu	<u>Subjunctive</u> Esphigmenu Ivion Kavsokalyvia Stavronikita	<u>both</u> Dionysiu M Lavras Panteleimonos Vatopediu
2) elsewhere:	Bologna Bukarest Constantinople Grottaferrata Kalavryta Ochrida Patmos Sparta Trikala	Karditsa Leiden Lesbos London Meteora Sofia Vallicelliana (Rome) Zittau	Athens Jerusalem Paris Sinai Vatican

Sinai, Jerusalem, Mt. Athos and Vatican are on both sides, but the Indicative has the better distribution elsewhere, significantly better.

In “Adjudicating Family Splits”, based on 24 MSS, the Subjunctive was attested by 59% of that selection, but my weighting instrument reduced the value to 43%. This paper is based on 77 MSS (out of 84 known family members) and the Subjunctive is now attested by 61% of the 77—the picture hasn’t changed. I am cheerfully satisfied that the archetype read the Indicative.

Returning to the list of fourteen splits on the first page, it will be observed that almost all of them involve a single letter, or similar sounding diphthong. Most of them represent scarcely any difference in meaning. There simply is no significant variation anywhere in Family 35 throughout the seven General Epistles. God has preserved His Text.